

CITY OF DAYTON 2015 ROAD MAP



Dear City Residents & Partners,

The City of Dayton is on the right path. We have accomplished much since 2013 when I first shared my *Roadmap* with the community. I promised that we would become a City of Learners, our economy would continue to grow, we would better leverage our community resources, and create vibrant and connected neighborhoods for generations to come. As I reflect on the progress we have made during my first year in office, it is clear that we have created momentum in all four areas.

As many of you know, our *City of Learners* initiative has become a rallying cry in our community. During the twelve listening sessions held this summer, it was clear that there is a strong correlation between having a robust education system and economic mobility. The 2015 *City of Learners* report combines the voice of the community with next steps based on best practice models. I am proud of the work that the community put forth on this effort, and I am committed to creating measurable goals that will move all of us towards academic excellence and economic strength.

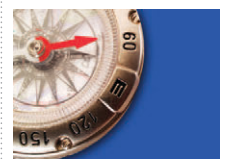
Speaking of economic strength, the Dayton economy continues to grow in jobs and opportunities. In 2014 we saw unemployment drop to a historic low of 5.7 percent; a level not seen in more than a quarter century. Locally we have seen new technologies that are changing the environment for manufactures and their workforce. In 2015, manufacturing will continue to be a key focus for Dayton. The national *Makers Movement* provides an opportunity to bring well-paying jobs back into our community. To this end, we partnered with the City of Cincinnati, the Dayton Development Coalition, and REDI Cincinnati to create a 27 county manufacturing region based on supply chain strengths. Nationally Dayton was one of 12 recipients designated by the *Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership*. This spotlight will help to encourage business investments and attract more federal funding to our city.

Comparatively, our neighborhoods are being reimagined. Supported by a broad base of residents and city investments, we transferred over 225 vacant properties to citizens who want to make a difference in their neighborhood. We have also aggressively pursued state and federal funds to demolish blighted buildings that cannot be redeveloped. Over the past two years we completed over \$6.6 million of demolition resulting in 540 structures being removed. We have also made strong commitments to improve city services and infrastructure by investing over \$15 million in projects this year.

Finally, Dayton is a community that is committed to being open, vibrant and welcoming. We will continue to focus on programs like Bike Share, which provides accessibility and connectivity to the urban core and recreation. We will strive for nondiscrimination policies that create measurable community impacts like the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index. And we will, of course, continue to be a national leader in immigrant inclusion through the Welcome Dayton program.

While the accomplishments outlined in this document – and many others – give us great pride, we still are at the beginning of this journey. Our vision of a vibrant, thriving city that provides opportunities for all will require additional time and effort. As your Mayor, I invite you to review all of the progress we have made so far on this journey. I look forward to serving you, as we continue on this road together.


Nan Whaley
Mayor



To achieve our vision of a vibrant, thriving city that provides opportunities for all will require additional time and effort.
— Mayor
Nan Whaley

A Jobs Vision for Dayton:



Dayton has many opportunities to grow jobs, not only in the city but throughout the entire region. We recognize that the region's assets can be used to promote efforts to retain, attract and create jobs that will grow the long term economy of our city and improve the livelihoods of its residents.



Construction is seventy five percent complete on the \$1.85 million PSA Dispatch Project.

A Focus on Community Assets

Dayton International Airport

The Dayton International Airport is a \$1 billion asset that served more than 1.2 million passengers in 2014. It is a centrally located, modern day port with unmatched convenience and accessibility, a prime location for expansion both as a commercial passenger and cargo facility.

■ **Facade Upgrades** — Facade improvements at the Dayton International Airport began with the replacement of the entrance doors. The cost of this phase of the project is \$500,000. In 2015, the airport will begin working on enhancements to the ticketing and baggage claim areas. Additionally, new pre-security restrooms will be added to accommodate the travelling public. Total renovations for this project are estimated to cost \$14 million.

■ **PSA Expansion** — Construction is seventy five percent complete on the \$1.85 million PSA Airlines Dispatch Project. The new space will accommodate the Dispatch/Operations Control Center, adding

approximately 7,500 square feet of additional space to the PSA training facility. PSA Airlines has been based in Dayton, Ohio for over 25 years. As a result of this project PSA will maintain 446 jobs at the Airport and create 42 new jobs.

Education and Workforce Development

With the recent completion of the Dayton Public Schools rebuilding program and the success of the groundbreaking work of the neighborhood school centers, Dayton is poised to refocus on the relationships that can create a successful workforce. Linking schools, neighborhood faith-based anchors, service organizations, cultural institutions, neighborhoods and the assets of the city as a giant classroom, we can create conditions of opportunity to grow a successful workforce and prepare our young people for the growing number of technology-oriented jobs.

■ **City of Learners Listening Tour** — The *City of Learners* Committee is comprised of more than 70 community leaders who have committed to ensure that children in the City of Dayton receive a high quality education. Over seven weeks, the Committee met with almost 450 people across the city in 12 “Listening Sessions.” These community conversations led to the creation of 5 priority areas for the committee; 1) ensure all children attend a high quality school, 2) ensure high quality preschool is offered to all children, 3) increase business partnerships with schools, 4) provide mentors to more children, and 5) expand sites for afterschool and summer learning. The Committee is currently reviewing the priority areas to identify next steps for community action.

■ **RTA Partnership** — During the community conversations held over the summer, it was made clear that there was a shortage of afterschool transportation options for students. RTA quickly responded with a new program to expand student bus passes to allow students to more fully participate in afterschool learning and activities.



■ **City of Learners presentations at Commission Meetings** — More than 40 community groups provided an informational update about their services and volunteer opportunities at a Dayton City Commission meeting.

The Greater Downtown

For the 42,000 men and women who work and live there, Greater Downtown Dayton is more than the visual and symbolic center of our region. With more than seven million visitors per year, a student population of 40,000 and annual sales revenue of \$5 billion, it represents the strategic economic foundation for both Dayton and the entire region. A thriving and prosperous downtown is a key element to Dayton's future job growth.

■ **Pop-Up Shops** — The Pop-Up Project is driven by volunteers from the young professional organizations Generation Dayton and UpDayton with support from the Downtown Dayton Partnership, the City of Dayton and community volunteers. Since its inception in 2011, the project has launched 16 shops, filled 13,000 square feet of previously vacant space, and created 29 jobs.

■ **Façade Grants** — The *Downtown Façade Improvement Program* is a matching grant program that seeks to enliven the built environment in the downtown core. In 2014 there were 5 projects that represented \$1.1 million in private investment through \$76,000 in City Funds. Since the inception of the *Downtown Façade Program* in 2009 there have been 40 projects representing \$2.6 million in private investment through \$420,000 in City Funds.

■ **Arcade Task Force** — The *Arcade Task Force* was established to evaluate the future of the Dayton Arcade which has been vacant since 1991. The twelve member board, comprised of local business, not-for-profit and elected leaders will make recommendations for the future of the 10-building structure during the first quarter of 2015.

■ **Barry Staff** — Barry Staff Inc. is building a 13,000-square-foot facility in Webster Station. Located in downtown since 1982 Barry Staff is committed to downtown. Barry Staff will maintain their 17 employees and expects to add at least 10 more during the next year.

■ **Dinsmore & Shohl LLP** — Dinsmore & Shohl is consolidating their two downtown operations into one office at the Fifth Third Center. Dinsmore is entering into a 10-year lease for 33,900 square feet of office space and investing \$1.5 million in improvements.

■ **Goodwill Easter Seals Human Services Center** — Goodwill Easter Seals completed construction



on its Human Service Center in December. The \$14.4 million, 100,000-square-foot community services campus is a gateway in the downtown core. The project received a \$2.2 million "Clean Ohio" state grant in 2012. The Clean Ohio grant supported demolition and soil remediation activities at the 5.8-acre site.

■ **Dayton Metro Library (Main Library)** — The Dayton Metro Library project includes renovating and expanding the existing Main Library. It will offer all of the amenities of the branches including additional computers and dedicated spaces for quiet reading, study and informal small group meetings. The former Hauer Music Building on Patterson will become the operations and training center for the Dayton Library system. Renovation of the Hauer Building is underway. Renovation of the library will commence in earnest in 2015.



In 2014, the façade program leveraged \$1.1 million in private investment through 5 projects.



Patterson Square

■ **Simms Development** — Building on the success that started in 2011 with the Patterson Square project, Simms Development is near completion on an additional 31 units in downtown. The buildout of Rubicon Square was completed this year and

consists of 14 homes near Miami Valley Hospital. Since 2011 Simms Development has built 63 homes in Greater downtown Dayton.



■ **40 West Fourth** — The Grant-Deneau Tower was Dayton's first modern skyscraper and is an excellent representation of mid-century modern architecture. Working with the building owner, the City is leading the effort to designate the building as a local landmark with HD-3 Historic Designation Overlay to encourage adaptive reuse.

■ **Oregon East** — City Properties Group, a Kentucky-based developer, applied for Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits to rehabilitate and adaptively reuse the Weustoff and Getz Co. property to create 40 apartments and space for restaurants or other businesses. The \$7.9 million project received \$1.9 million in Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits.

Health and Education Campuses

The various health and education campuses located throughout the city have proven to be strong anchors to our neighborhoods and their residents. These campuses are economic engines, bringing jobs and vibrancy to our neighborhoods. As these campuses grow and thrive, so does our city.

■ **Sinclair Community College National UAS Training and Certification Center** — Sinclair was awarded \$4 million in capital funding from the State of Ohio to support the expansion of the National UAS Training and Certification Center on the Dayton campus which includes the construction of a new UAS Indoor Flying Pavilion. Many partnerships were expanded and new partnership agreements were created with industry, government and academic partners including The Ohio State University, Woolpert, Altavian, and the Air Force Research Laboratory. Sinclair maintained six Certificates of Authorization (COA) with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), allowing

UAS flight operations at both the Springfield-Beckley Airport and Wilmington Airpark where more than 250 flights and 90 hours of UAS flying have taken place.

■ **Emerson Technologies** — The Emerson Climate Technologies Innovation Center will be a 40,000 square foot building on five acres at the corner of Main and Stewart streets on land owned by University of Dayton. The project represents another exciting collaboration between UD and a private sector partner. The investment is estimated at \$35 million.

■ **Dayton Children's Hospital** — Dayton Children's Hospital will be expanding with a \$140 million inpatient tower. The new eight-story tower is expected to be completed in 2017.

Encourage the Redevelopment of the Fairgrounds and Waterfront

The Montgomery County Fairgrounds and areas along the city's waterfront, are some of the strongest development opportunities in the entire region and could contribute to a number of projects including the work of the University of Dayton to grow the community's research and development initiatives.

■ **Montgomery County Fairgrounds** — The City will continue to support and assist with the possible structuring of the redevelopment effort at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. Working alongside State, Local and Federal officials, the City will continue to champion the Fairgrounds property as a future location for additional live, work and play amenities.

■ **Water Street** — The \$45 million mixed-use *Water Street Development* project broke ground in early 2014 in downtown Dayton's riverfront area. In addition to a 50,000 square foot commercial building and new three-level parking structure, the project will include 219 residential apartment units. Columbus-based Crawford Hoying and Dayton-based Woodard Real Estate Resources are facilitating the development.

Manufacturing Base

Making high quality products has been a key part of the local economy and will continue to be so in the future. Without manufacturing the Midwest and its cities cease to be a meaningful economic generator for America and the world.

■ **Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership Designation** — In partnership with the City of Cincinnati, the Dayton Development Coalition, and REDI Cincinnati, the City of Dayton



The \$45 million mixed-use Water Street Development project broke ground in early 2014 in downtown Dayton's riverfront area.

was awarded one of 12 *IMCP* national designations with a focus on aerospace. The team, branded the *Southwest Ohio Aerospace Region (SOAR)*, is working to market the strong aerospace supply chain in the 27 county region as well as leverage local resources to receive and implement workforce training grants such as the *Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT)* grant, which received \$22 million.

■ **Manufacturing Task Force** — The *Manufacturing Task Force* focuses on advocacy and workforce development in the manufacturing sector. The task force holds two significant events during the year. Manufacturing Day which creates an opportunity for local manufacturers to encourage young people to pursue careers in manufacturing and engineering through plant tours and staff outreach. Dayton holds one of the largest Manufacturing Day's in the country with twenty-nine companies hosting open houses for 2,500 students and teachers from 42 schools. Additionally, the Manufacturing Month Speakers Panel, in conjunction with the *Advanced Manufacturing and Technology Show (AMTS)*, hosted Jay Williams, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development to discuss national trends in manufacturing and the local implications of those trends.

■ **idX Corporation** — In 2014, idX completed renovations and moved into its new 450,000 square foot facility. The move doubles the size of the operation and consolidates it under one roof. idX is a manufacturer of consumer environments made of wood, metal, glass, acrylic, vacuum

forming, injection molding, laminate, veneer that are used in retail, financial, hospitality and point-of-purchase markets.

■ **Dayton Molded Urethanes LLC** — Dayton Molded Urethanes is building a 25,000 square foot addition at its Dixie Drive location. The \$1.5 million project includes improvements to the company's existing facility as well as new equipment. Dayton Molded Urethanes is a custom molder of products for auto and industrial markets.

Spirit of Entrepreneurship

We must recognize that a Fortune 500 company is more likely to be grown in Dayton than to move to Dayton. This region has a rich history of entrepreneurship that must continue to be cultivated.

■ **Business Round Table meetings** — Listening to, and advocating for, businesses is a primary responsibility for the Mayor. Business cluster meetings called *Business Round Tables* were established as a way to facilitate this interface. This year, 45 local business leaders met with the Mayor in small groups to discuss their perspective on the business climate in the City of Dayton, key trends associated with each industry, and how the city might position itself to attract additional business investment.

■ **Top 25 CEO's Meetings** — In addition to the *Business Round Table* meetings, the Mayor met with leadership from each of the top 25 companies in the City of Dayton.

■ **GYBO Event** — Small business owners in the Dayton region were invited to a one-time special



The Dayton region holds one of the largest Manufacturing Day's in the country with twenty-nine companies hosting open houses for 2,500 students and teachers from 42 schools.





The final Source Water Protection Plan proposal provides for a stronger, broader and more comprehensive program that ensures the future protection and sustainability of Dayton's water resources.

event designed to help organizations establish or expand their online presence through websites, e-commerce and social media. *Dayton GYBO* (Get Your Business Online) was held at the University of Dayton River Campus. The half-day event included networking opportunities, panel discussions featuring entrepreneurs who have succeeded in building online business, and presentations by marketing and technology professionals.

■ **TechTown** — In 2014, Dayton Children's Hospital moved its information technology department from its main campus to Tech Town occupying 13,880 square feet of space. The Mathile Institute for the Advancement of Human Nutrition, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the nutritional health of the world's children, will move to Tech Town in the 1st Quarter of 2015. Other new leases in 2014 include, *Autosoft* a provider of dealership management solutions, *Sigmatex* a consulting firm providing systems engineering and technical assistance aerospace, defense, federal and commercial clients, *Tenet3* focuses on consulting and strategy of cybersecurity, *Imagineering Results Analysis Corp.* is a data analytics and open source architecture firm who supports agriculture, energy renewables, and intelligence operations, *FMI Medical Systems, Inc.* is a diverse international group of engineers and physicists developing new technologies for CT and PET/CT imaging in emerging international markets, and *Stratonics* specializes in the real-time measurement and control of industrial additive manufacturing processes.

Wright Patterson Air Force Base

Wright Patterson Air Force Base (WPAFB) stands out as a very bright spot for the Dayton region over the past decade with an economic impact of more the \$5 billion annually. The base employs 27,000 military personnel, civilians and contractors as well as thousands of support personnel working off-base. As the federal government continues to look for ways to consolidate bases and functions, Wright Patterson Air Force Base continues to provide opportunities for growth.

■ **Base Leadership** — Recognizing the importance of WPAFB to our area, the City conducted several meetings and outreach events to cultivate relationships with the 445th Airlift Wing, 88th Air Base Wing, Air Force Institute of Technology, Air Force Materiel Command, Air Force Research Laboratory, National Museum of the Air Force, National Air and Space Intelligence Center and Air Force Life Cycle Management Center.



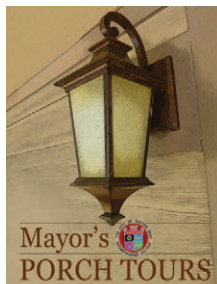
Water

The water system must first continue to provide first class water and sewer service to our customers. But it must also act as the economic development opportunity it actually possesses. Additionally, it must be leveraged as an economic development opportunity.

■ **Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP)** — The City put forth proposed changes to its *SWPP* in May of 2014, which began a communitywide public vetting of the Plan. Key changes include a new regulated Source Water Protection Area based on current operational factors and recent modeling scenarios, as well as the addition of expansion provisions for businesses operating in the *Source Water Protection Area*. Over 50 community stakeholder meetings were completed, which resulted in valuable input on the final proposal that will be presented to the Plan Board for Review early in 2015. The final proposal provides for a stronger, broader and more comprehensive program that ensures the future protection and sustainability of Dayton's water resources.

■ **Developing Strategic Partnerships in the Region** — The City put forth a strong proposal for the privatization of WPAFB Water Infrastructure Systems in January 2014. Dayton continues to be responsive to the Defense Logistics Agency throughout the evaluation phase and anticipate further dialogue on the technical/financial aspects of the submission. The proposal places Dayton in a strategic position to manage Base assets, while providing a unique opportunity to further grow the system to the northeast. As the largest water purveyor in the region, the City's expertise and affordable rate structures will provide an economical solution for the Base to secure the sustainability of its water and wastewater service needs well into the future.

A Vision for Thriving Dayton Neighborhoods:



Dayton is a mosaic of unique neighborhoods differing in character, assets and challenges. There are 65 neighborhoods within Dayton's boundaries. Recognizing the differences in each of these neighborhoods, building upon them and focusing on quality of life issues is the key to fostering a healthy, thriving city where its residents can raise their children and nurture their families, develop meaningful relationships and can be proud to call Dayton their home.

■ **Neighborhood Porch Tour** — From June through August, the Mayor and city leadership held 12 community meetings with citizens to discuss their neighborhoods. Unlike a neighborhood walk, the community meetings provide an opportunity to have in-depth discussions about the strengths and opportunities in each neighborhood. Notecards allowed for questions or issues to be submitted as well, and city staff provided follow-up wherever necessary. The neighborhoods that participated this year include: Roosevelt, Hillview, Huffman, Carillon, Mount Vernon, Downtown, Old North Dayton, Dayton View Triangle, Forest Ridge, Residence Park, Edgemont and Westwood. Next summer, another group of neighborhoods will be invited to participate.



Forest Ridge Porch Tour

Providing Excellent City Services

Maintaining strong city services for every neighborhood while increasing our investment in the public infrastructure is a high priority. Excellent city services and an attractive public infrastructure is the basic foundation for any city renaissance.

■ **Passage of the Earnings Tax** — In 2014, the citizens of Dayton voted to make permanent the City earnings tax. The earnings tax is the largest source of money for the general fund, which pays for basic services – police, fire, waste collection, street maintenance, snow removal, recreation centers and parks. By making these funds permanent, the City can realize a higher bond rating which can save money with lower interest rates allowing the City to complete more projects.

■ **Infrastructure Investments** — It is essential to maintain our streets and parks. The City of Dayton Public Works Department carefully selects projects through an extensive grading system each year. This year's projects include:

Smithville Rd	\$5,287,000
Keowee St	\$1,080,000
S Main St	\$4,400,000
Watervliet Traffic Enhancements	\$340,000
Wayne Ave Enhancement	\$338,000
Park Facility Improvement	\$550,000
Bikeway Ramps at Fifth St	\$220,000
2014 Bus Pads	\$300,000
Bus Stop Sidewalks	\$120,000
2014 Throughfare Resurfacing	\$780,000
2014 Residential Resurfacing	\$1,770,000
2014 Alley Resurfacing	\$250,000
Total Project Funding	\$15,415,000



Through LotLinks, the City processed over 290 applications, and completed 228 property transfers for rehabilitation of buildings or side lot expansions.

Maintaining a Safe Neighborhood Environment

For our neighborhoods to be a healthy, thriving place our residents need to feel protected in their homes, to walk around the block, to talk to their neighbors and to allow their children to go outside and play.

■ **Support and Develop a Strong Public Safety Force** — Recognizing the need to focus on the development of new public safety staff, the City of Dayton recruited for new classes of Police, Fire and EMS personnel. This resulted in 21 new police recruits, 22 new fire recruits, and 4 new EMT-B's.

■ **Police and Clergy Together (PACT)** — Comprised of community and faith-based leaders, law enforcement, and local government, PACT advises the Dayton Human Relations Council on policy and systemic issues that challenge community-police relations. In 2014, PACT responded to 18 community incidents with the goal of ensuring mutual trust, accountability, fairness and respect for all. This spring, the Dayton Police Department graduated the third PACT class, consisting of 11 faith based leaders, bringing the total number of graduates to 48.

■ **Dog Tethering Ordinance** — In response to complaints of unruly dogs in neighborhoods, the City Commission passed an ordinance to regulate the tethering of dogs. Since its implementation, the community has used the ordinance to mediate dog issues and neighborhoods have seen great results from these new rules.



■ **Hire Dayton** — Launched in August with the goal of matching citizen job seekers with potential employers, *Hire Dayton* has created strategic partnerships with local businesses, including I-Supply Co., A.E. Davids Uniforms and Fuyao

Glass North America. In December, Hire Dayton established a consortium of workforce development providers to directly assist employers and will launch quarterly resource fairs in 2015.



Fighting Property Abandonment and Blight

The City of Dayton is committed to removing abandoned and blighted structures in our community. They drain city resources and drag down the value of the other well-maintained homes in our neighborhoods.

■ **Landbank (Moving Ohio Forward)** — Over the last two years, the City of Dayton completed over \$6.6 million of demolition, removing 836 units of housing and 170 garages from neighborhoods.

■ **Real Estate Acquisition Program (REAP)** — Known commonly as LotLinks, the City processed over 290 applications, and completed 228 property transfers for rehabilitation of buildings or side lot expansions. This is a significant increase over 2013.

■ **TARP** — As part of a countywide collaboration with the Landbank and three other local jurisdictions, the City contributed to the application that resulted in over \$5 million to the Landbank for demolition, of which \$4 million was allocated to the City. The City has identified and submitted 220 properties to the land bank for demolition. The City is currently ahead of schedule on acquisition. Dayton was the lead agency on the Target Area Plan component of the application, a key reason why Montgomery County, on a per capita basis, fared better than many other Landbanks including those in Hamilton, Franklin, and Cuyahoga Counties.

Promoting Neighborhood Uniqueness

Each neighborhood in Dayton is unique and needs different tools to promote sustainability and growth. Neighborhoods must be encouraged by the city to be self-governed: to create a system that leverages and multiplies the talents and assets of each neighborhood.



■ **DIY** — The Dayton is Yours program expanded in 2014 from 15 to 21 neighborhoods. One of the primary focuses of the DIY groups was to assist the Division of Housing Inspection with over 600 courtesy notices in neighborhoods.

■ **Roosevelt West Project** — Phase 2 of the *Roosevelt West* project was funded in 2014 and construction will begin in spring 2015. There will be 40 newly constructed homes that will complement the 38 homes constructed in Phase 1, as well as the rexPlex and Boys Academy.

■ **Neighborhood Mini-Grants** — Fourteen neighborhood projects were funded in 2014 totaling almost \$50,000. Projects included the Historic Huffman Streetscape and Beautification project, the Phoenix Project Greenhouse and

Gardens Improvements, and Salem Avenue Marketing and Development project.

■ **Neighborhood Clean-Ups** — During the year, the Department of Public Works partnered with neighborhoods to complete over 100 neighborhood cleanup projects. With the installation of 40 cameras in high traffic dumping areas, the City has been able to prosecute 65 cases of illegal dumping.

■ **Neighborhood Leadership Institute** — 2014 was the 32nd year for the *Neighborhood Leadership Institute (NLI)*, the annual 12-week program that trains Dayton residents for current or future leadership opportunities in city communities. Twenty eight community members graduated from the program.

Connecting Our Neighborhoods

In 1961, the great thinker Jane Jacobs wrote in the *Life and Death of Great American Cities*, “a city center needs an intricately woven diversity of uses that reinforce each other economically and socially if it is to be successful.” Our neighborhoods need to be well defined by space, but they also need to be connected to one another.

■ **North Dayton Enhancement Project** — This gateway enhancement project at “The Point” (Keowee, Valley and Troy Streets) will create a new entryway into the Old North Dayton Neighborhood. Five blighted structures will be removed and the City will apply for funds to better align the Keowee and Valley street intersection, shifting Valley Street north. This will open the area for more park land and better river access between Valley Street and the Mad River.



A Vision for an Open Vibrant Dayton



Our residents have a stake in making Dayton a fun, friendly, and desirable place to call home. Our community supports safe, family-oriented neighborhoods, accessible parks, recreation activities, and amenities that encourage an active lifestyle.

A City that Supports Active Lifestyles

A vibrant city is one that supports the active lifestyles of its residents, its youth and its out of town guests. Such support will help identify Dayton as an entertainment destination for the region, highlighting the attractions that are unique to our urban core.



■ **Bicycle Friendly Designation** — The City of Dayton retained its *Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community* status for the next four year. The city and its partners made important strides towards incorporating bicycles into the fabric of the city. With the introduction of a *Bike Share* program and numerous infrastructure improvements in 2015, the Bike Walk Committee anticipates applying again for Silver status in the next few years.

■ **Bike Share** — The *Bike Share* program seeks to address goals set forth in the city's adopted *Livable Streets Policy*, *Greater Downtown Plan*, and *Bicycle Action Plan* and advances downtown as a multi-modal hub and the outdoor recreation capital of the Midwest. Scheduled to launch during second quarter 2015, the City contributed \$250,000 toward the match for Federal Surface Transportation Program funds. The program is expected to have 22 stations and over 200 bikes.

■ **Basketball and Tennis Court Improvements** — The City committed over \$550,000 in 2014 to resurface outdoor courts at 8 city parks.

■ **Recreation Center Improvements** — Keeping the City of Dayton recreation facilities in the best shape possible is essential for supporting active lifestyles. During 2014, \$280,000 was invested in capital improvements in the City. This includes, basketball backboards at Northwest and Lohrey,



Dayton World Soccer Games



fitness equipment at GDRC, new bleachers at Lohrey, the Howell Field fence and scoreboard, bleachers at Nichols Tennis Center, and overhead netting at Kettering Field.

■ **NCAA Tournament** — The Dayton area’s rich basketball history is highlighted by the hard work of basketball enthusiasts across the region which secured the NCAA tournament in Dayton until 2018.

■ **Dayton World Soccer Games** — The 3rd Annual Dayton World Soccer Games, was held in 2014, with a record 29 teams representing 18 different countries. Proceeds permitted a \$1,000 equipment donation to the Dayton Area Soccer Association.

■ **Community Events** — Throughout the year, the City hosts a number of free community events. In 2014, there were eight such events supporting the attendance of nearly 100,000 people.

A City that Welcomes Diversity

Efforts to welcome anyone who desires to make Dayton their home — to live, work, play and make a positive contribution to our community — should be a major priority. Welcoming new people with new ideas regardless of their backgrounds, orientations, and cultural differences is one of the keys to growing Dayton’s population in the years ahead.

■ **Welcome Dayton** — The Welcome Dayton program has served as a model to other cities across the country that seek to develop immigrant friendly programs. This year, the City of Dayton



has worked with cities such as Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Cincinnati as they establish Welcoming programs. Additional work in this area has included active participation in the national conversation on immigration policy.

■ **Municipal Equality Index (MEI)** - The Human Rights Campaign’s Municipal Equality Index (MEI) examines the laws, policies, and services of municipalities and rates them on the basis of their inclusivity of LGBT people who live and work there. 2014 was the first year that the City of Dayton participated in the program and scored a total of 95 out of 100 points, designating it an *All Star City*.

■ **Language Services** — The City of Dayton has contracted with a language service provider to ensure all residents are able to receive city services regardless of the language they speak. The contract provides telephonic and face to face interpretation as well as translation. Several departments have inserted a “press 1 for Spanish” option to further enhance their ability to communicate with residents who are not English proficient.

A City that Promotes Entertainment and the Arts

Recent studies by the Brookings Institute showed that communities with arts districts had increased wages and fostered entrepreneurship and innovation. Arts and entertainment add to a community’s vibrancy and creates a sense of place in the urban core while providing an aide to economic development efforts that benefit the entire city.



Dr. Ayman Salem from Giza, Egypt



The Welcome Dayton program has served as a model other cities across the country that seek to develop immigrant friendly programs.



The City was able to expand its tree farm project to 6 sites, which will produce over 4,000 trees that can be planted throughout the city.



City Hall Lobby Art Exhibit

■ **Mayor's Art Council** — The Mayor's Art Council was developed to engage the arts community and to better identify how to integrate art into the public realm. One of the items identified by the art community was the need for a connection to City Hall. As a result, the Arts Community Liaison was established to focus on building relationships with community partners.

■ **City Hall Art Exhibit** — City Hall provides a unique opportunity to display works of art from local artists. Partnering with the Dayton Visual Arts Center, works of art are being displayed in the lobby of City Hall as well as the Mayor's office.

■ **Independence Day Celebration** — Each year the Fourth of July celebration attracts thousands of people downtown for the City of Dayton fireworks display.

A City with Creative, Alternative Spaces

To improve the infrastructure in our neighborhoods, consideration needs to be given to alternative uses for some of these spaces. The creative use of open space is another opportunity to increase vibrancy in our city.

■ **Urban Gardening** — Working with community groups, the Dayton Water Department was able to provide new water service lines for 10 community gardens and assist in bill payment for 22. The department also expanded the partnership with The



Urban Garden

Ohio State University Extension to explore best practices in urban gardening.

■ **Trees** — The City was able to expand the tree farm project to 6 sites, which will produce over 4,000 trees that can be planted throughout the city.

■ **Airport Prairie Grass Project** — The Dayton International Airport is home to the largest contiguous prairie in Ohio. This groundbreaking program seeks to make the airport more green, less expensive to maintain, and more safe by reducing airplane bird strikes. The initial three-year trial encompasses 300 acres, and if successful, another 800 acres may follow.